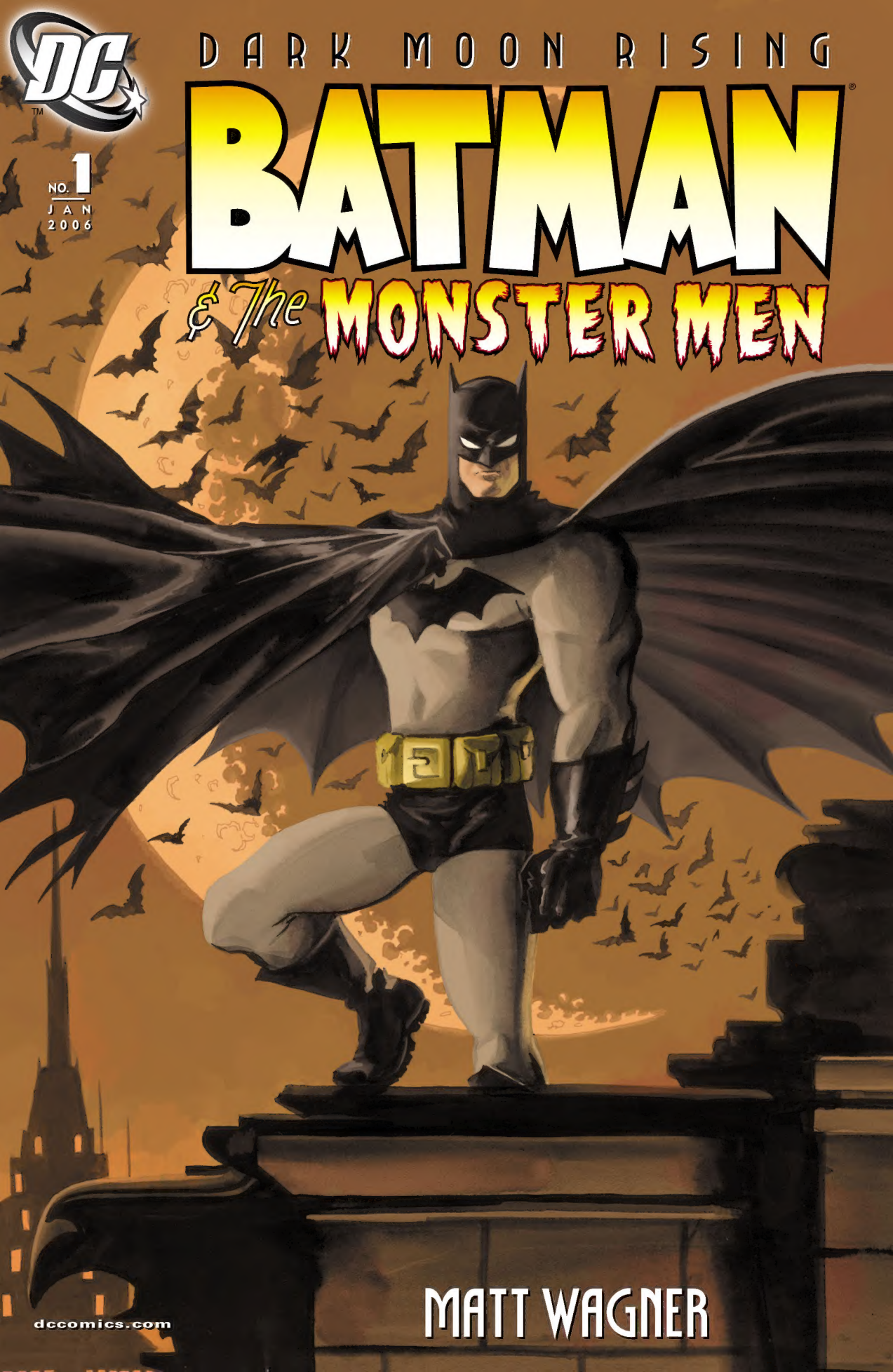
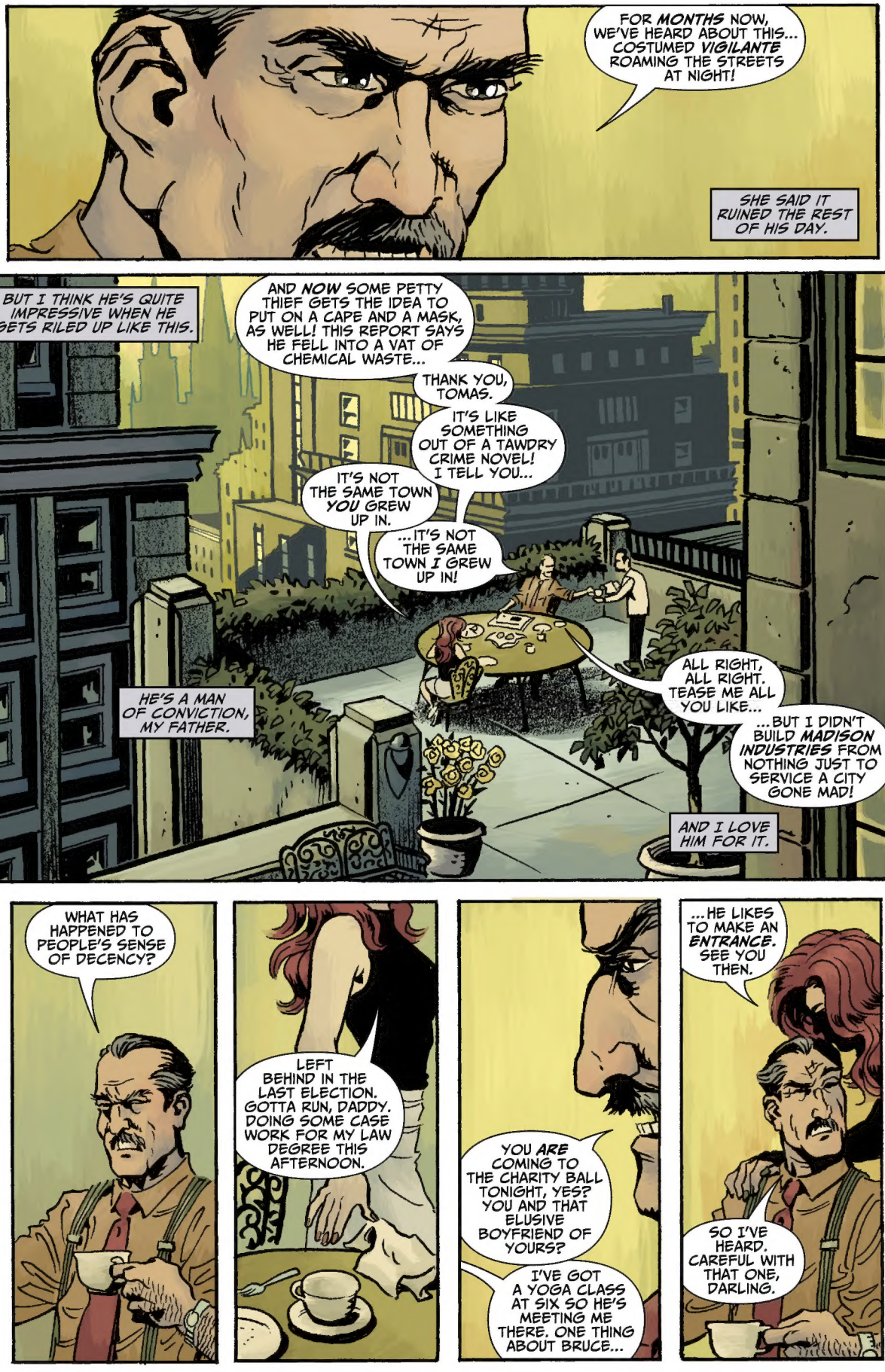
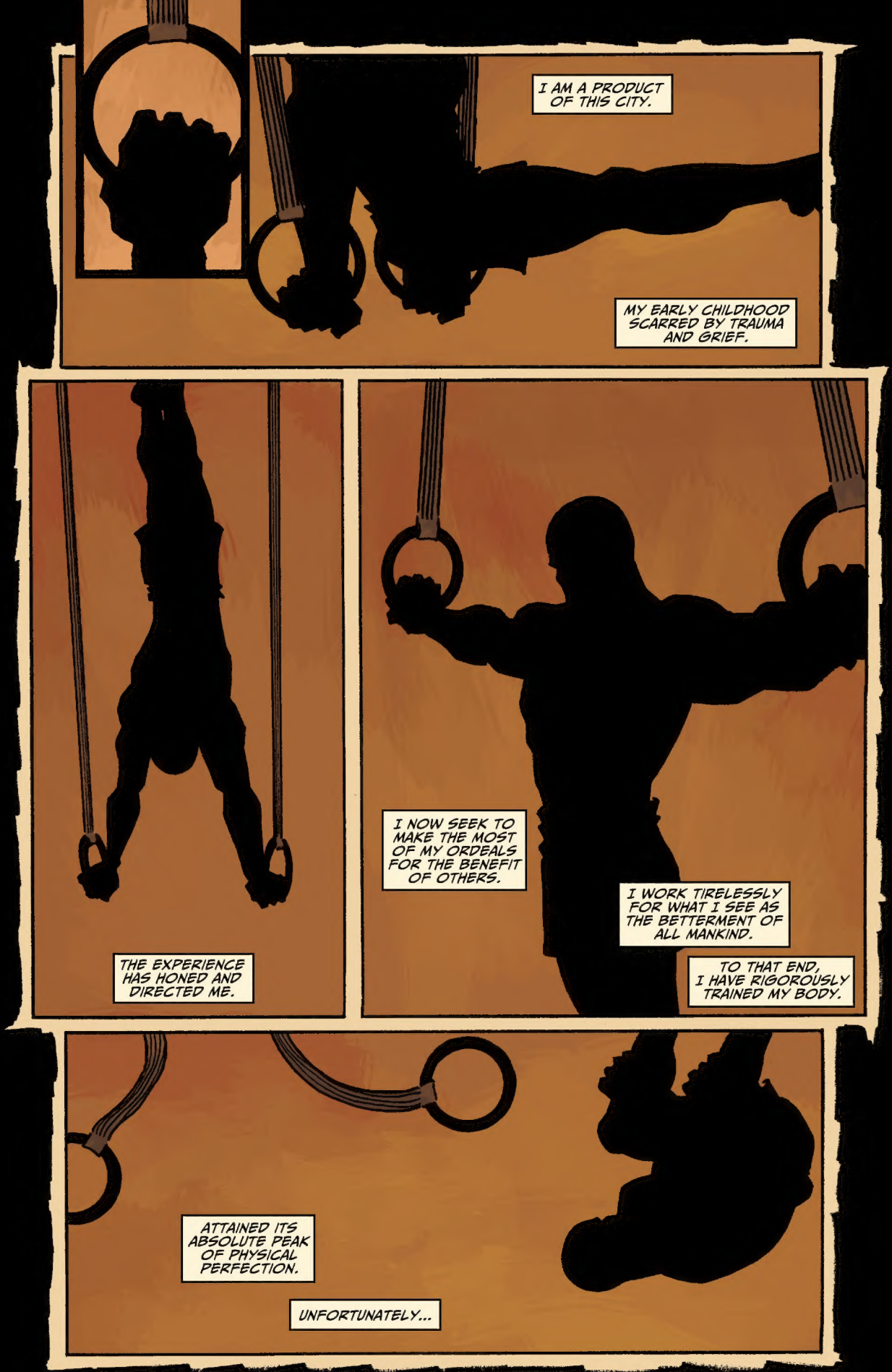
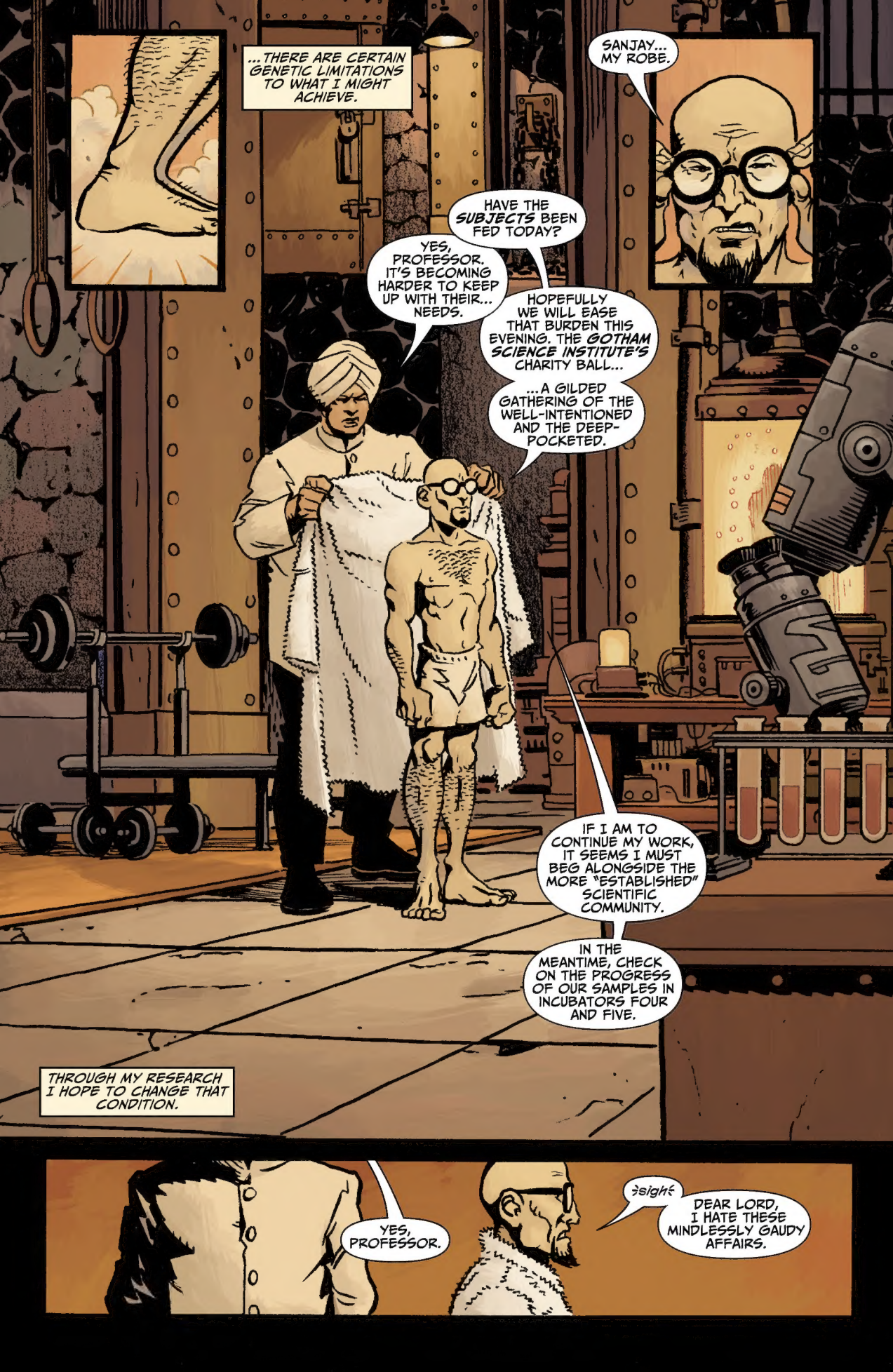

DC
DARK MOON RISING
BATMAN
& The MONSTER MEN
NO. 1
JAN
2006
dccomics.com
MATT WAGNER

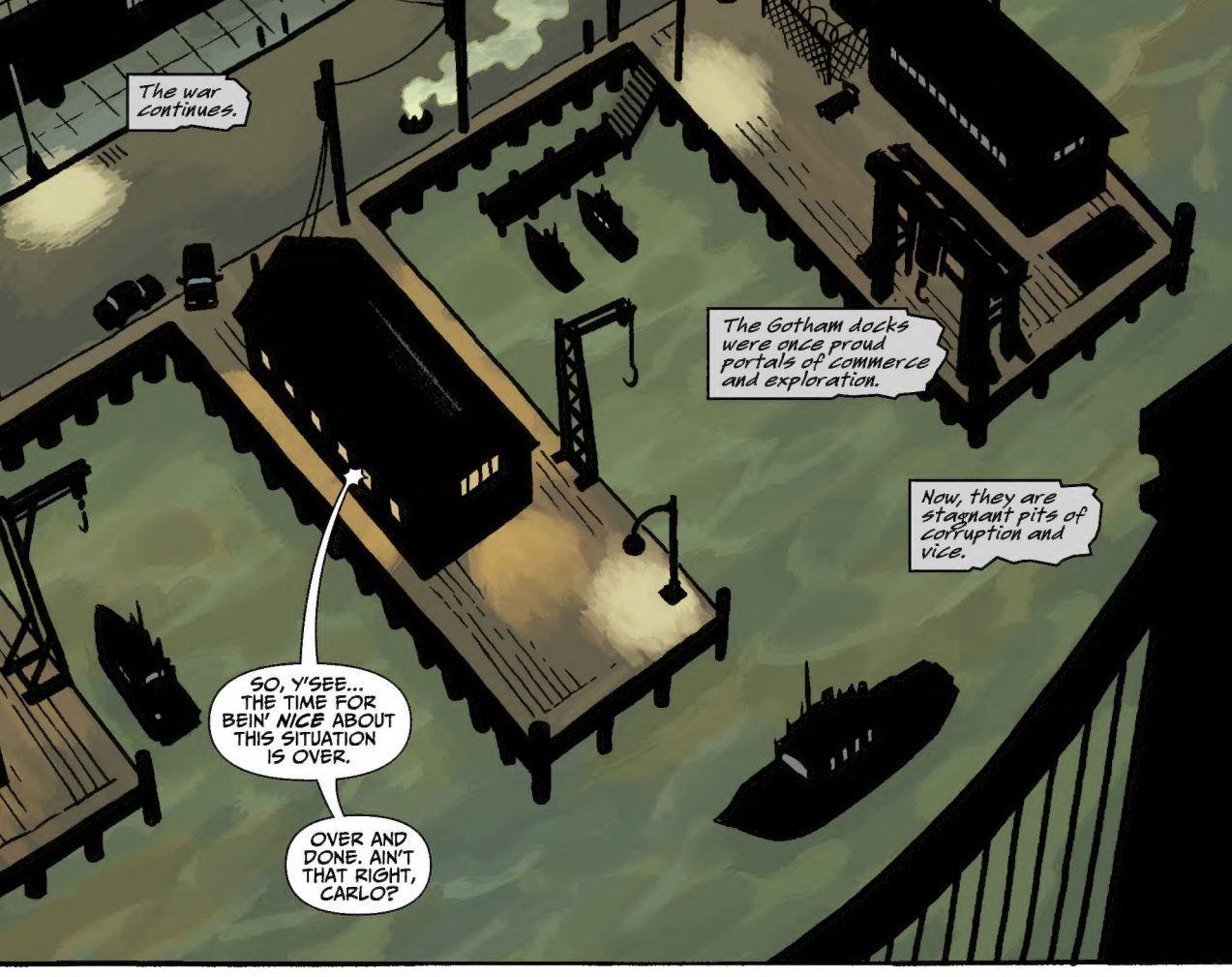
MOTHER ALWAYS SAID DADDY SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO READ HIS PAPER IN THE MORNINGS.
INSIDE MAYOR'S REELECTION CAMPAIGN GEARS UP
Gotham Gazette
MORNING EDITION
50¢ ★★★★
RED HOOD GONE?
EYEWITNESSES CLAIM MYSTERY THIEF FALLS TO DOOM AFTER ACE CHEMIC HEIST ATTEMPT FOILED RUN-IN WITH VIGILANT "BAT-MAN"
By VICKI VALE
Gotham City Crime Bureau Reporter
Artist's Rendition
GODDAMN CRIMINALS!

MATT WAGNER · STORY & ART
DAVE STEWART · COLORS
ROB LEIGH · LETTERS
BRANDON MONTCLARE · ASST. EDITOR
BOB SCHRECK · EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE


FOR MONTHS NOW, WE'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS... COSTUMED VIGILANTE ROAMING THE STREETS AT NIGHT!
SHE SAID IT RUINED THE REST OF HIS DAY.
BUT I THINK HE'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE WHEN HE GETS RILED UP LIKE THIS.
AND NOW SOME PETTY THIEF GETS THE IDEA TO PUT ON A CAPE AND A MASK, AS WELL! THIS REPORT SAYS HE FELL INTO A VAT OF CHEMICAL WASTE...
THANK YOU, TOMAS.
IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A TAWDRY CRIME NOVEL! I TELL YOU...
IT'S NOT THE SAME TOWN YOU GREW UP IN.
...IT'S NOT THE SAME TOWN I GREW UP IN!
HE'S A MAN OF CONVICTION, MY FATHER.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. TEASE ME ALL YOU LIKE...
...BUT I DIDN'T BUILD MADISON INDUSTRIES FROM NOTHING JUST TO SERVICE A CITY GONE MAD!
AND I LOVE HIM FOR IT.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO PEOPLE'S SENSE OF DECENCY?
LEFT BEHIND IN THE LAST ELECTION. GOTTA RUN, DADDY. DOING SOME CASE WORK FOR MY LAW DEGREE THIS AFTERNOON.
YOU ARE COMING TO THE CHARITY BALL TONIGHT, YES? YOU AND THAT ELUSIVE BOYFRIEND OF YOURS?
I'VE GOT A YOGA CLASS AT SIX SO HE'S MEETING ME THERE. ONE THING ABOUT BRUCE...
...HE LIKES TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE. SEE YOU THEN.
SO I'VE HEARD. CAREFUL WITH THAT ONE, DARLING.

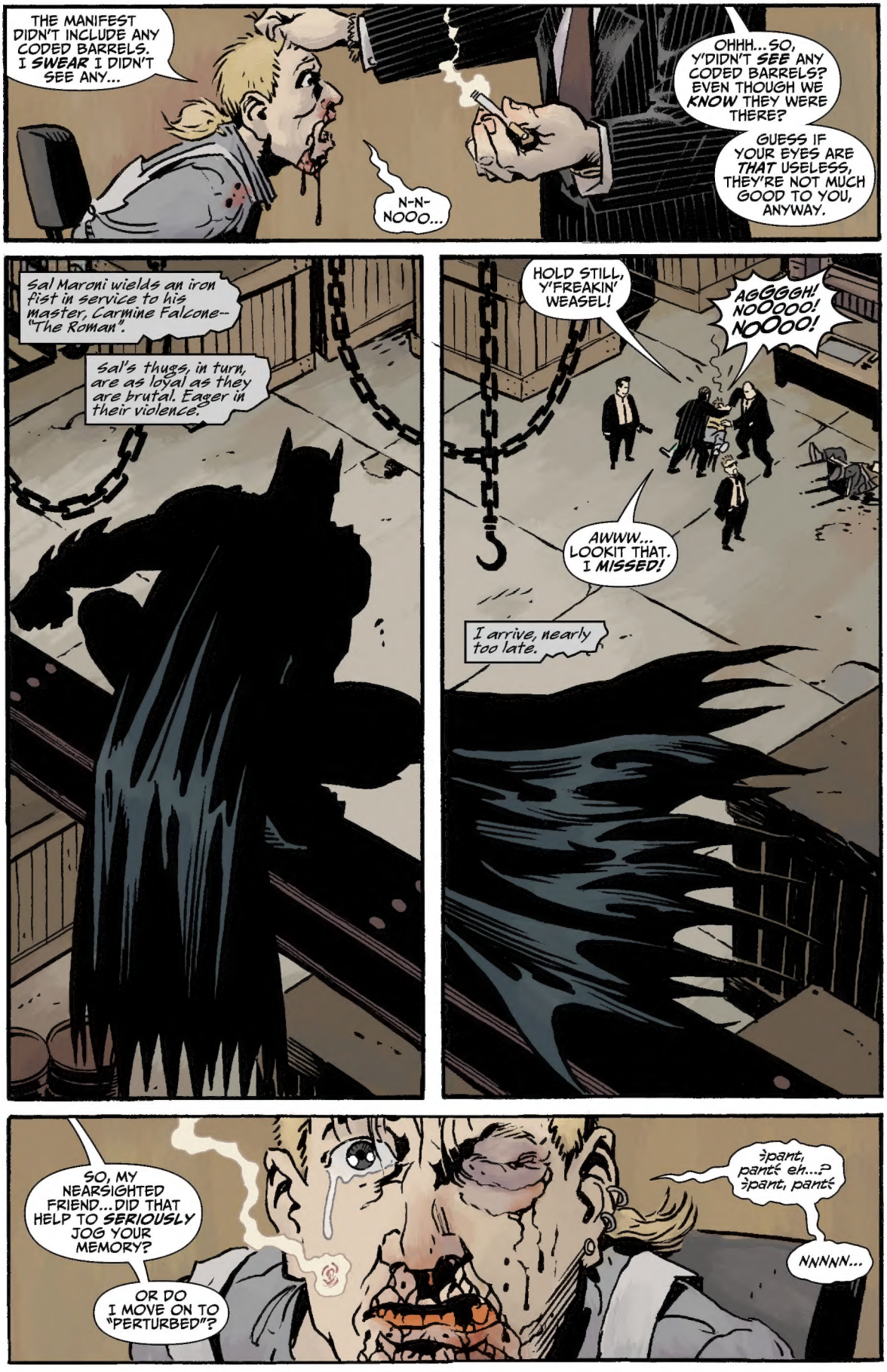

I AM A PRODUCT OF THIS CITY.
MY EARLY CHILDHOOD SCARRED BY TRAUMA AND GRIEF.
THE EXPERIENCE HAS HONED AND DIRECTED ME.
I NOW SEEK TO MAKE THE MOST OF MY ORDEALS FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS.
I WORK TIRELESSLY FOR WHAT I SEE AS THE BETTERMENT OF ALL MANKIND.
TO THAT END, I HAVE RIGOROUSLY TRAINED MY BODY.
ATTAINED ITS ABSOLUTE PEAK OF PHYSICAL PERFECTION.
UNFORTUNATELY...


...THERE ARE CERTAIN GENETIC LIMITATIONS TO WHAT I MIGHT ACHIEVE.
SANJAY... MY ROBE.
HAVE THE SUBJECTS BEEN FED TODAY?
YES, PROFESSOR. IT'S BECOMING HARDER TO KEEP UP WITH THEIR... NEEDS.
HOPEFULLY WE WILL EASE THAT BURDEN THIS EVENING. THE GOTHAM SCIENCE INSTITUTE'S CHARITY BALL...
...A GILDED GATHERING OF THE WELL-INTENTIONED AND THE DEEP-POCKETED.
IF I AM TO CONTINUE MY WORK, IT SEEMS I MUST BEG ALONGSIDE THE MORE "ESTABLISHED" SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.
IN THE MEANTIME, CHECK ON THE PROGRESS OF OUR SAMPLES IN INCUBATORS FOUR AND FIVE.
THROUGH MY RESEARCH I HOPE TO CHANGE THAT CONDITION.
YES, PROFESSOR.
sigh
DEAR LORD, I HATE THESE MINDLESSLY GAUDY AFFAIRS.


The war continues.
The Gotham docks were once proud portals of commerce and exploration.
Now, they are stagnant pits of corruption and vice.
SO, Y'SEE... THE TIME FOR BEIN' NICE ABOUT THIS SITUATION IS OVER.
OVER AND DONE. AIN'T THAT RIGHT, CARLO?

JUST LIKE YOU SAID, RICHIE.
SO, Y'SEE...
...WHAT YOU'VE EXPERIENCED SO FAR... THAT WAS ME ASKIN' NICE-LIKE.

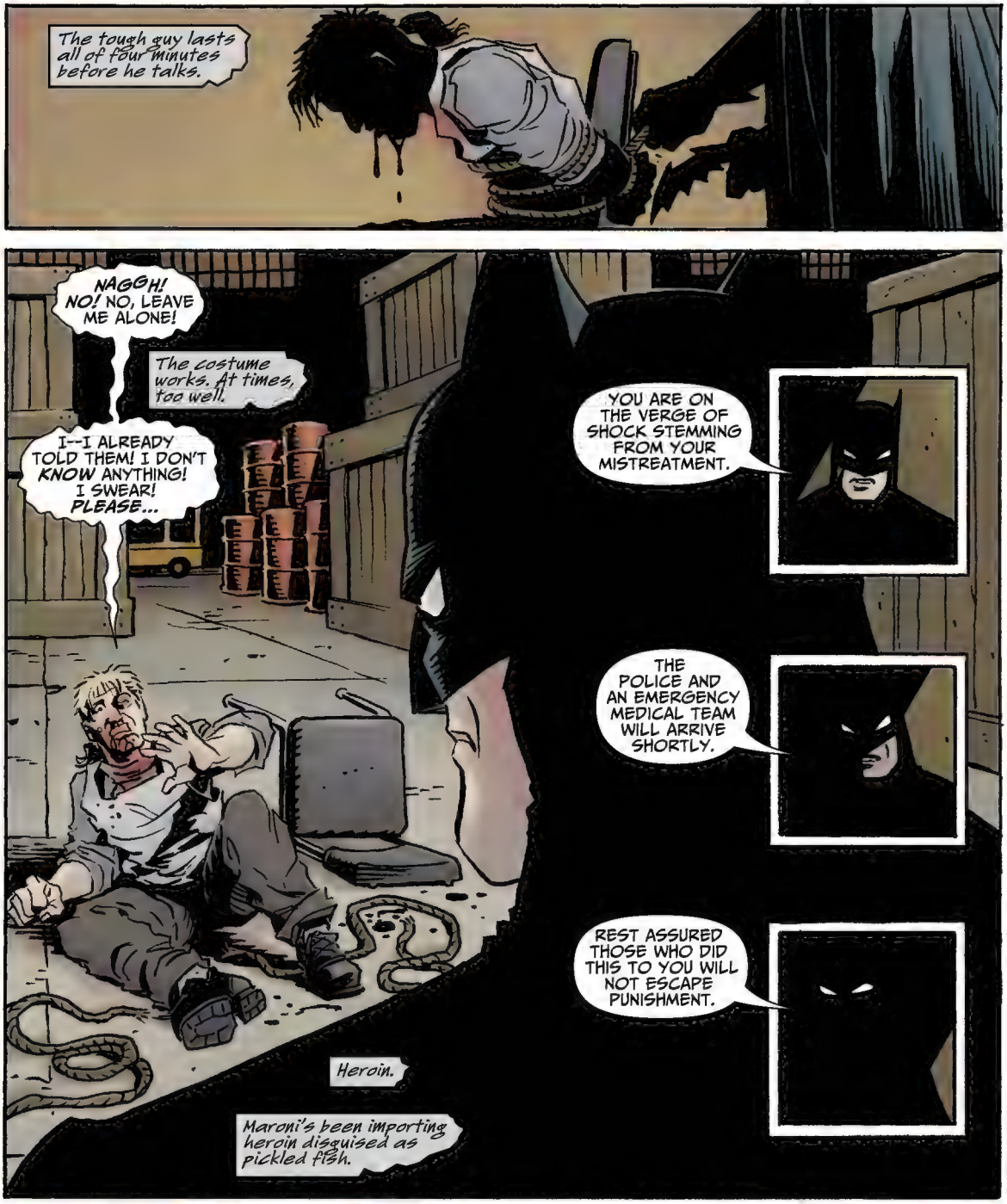
NOW, I'M MOVIN' ON TO "SERIOUS."
WHERE THE HELL ARE THOSE SHIPMENTS FROM THAILAND?
I...*cough, cough*... I SWEAR I DUNNO!

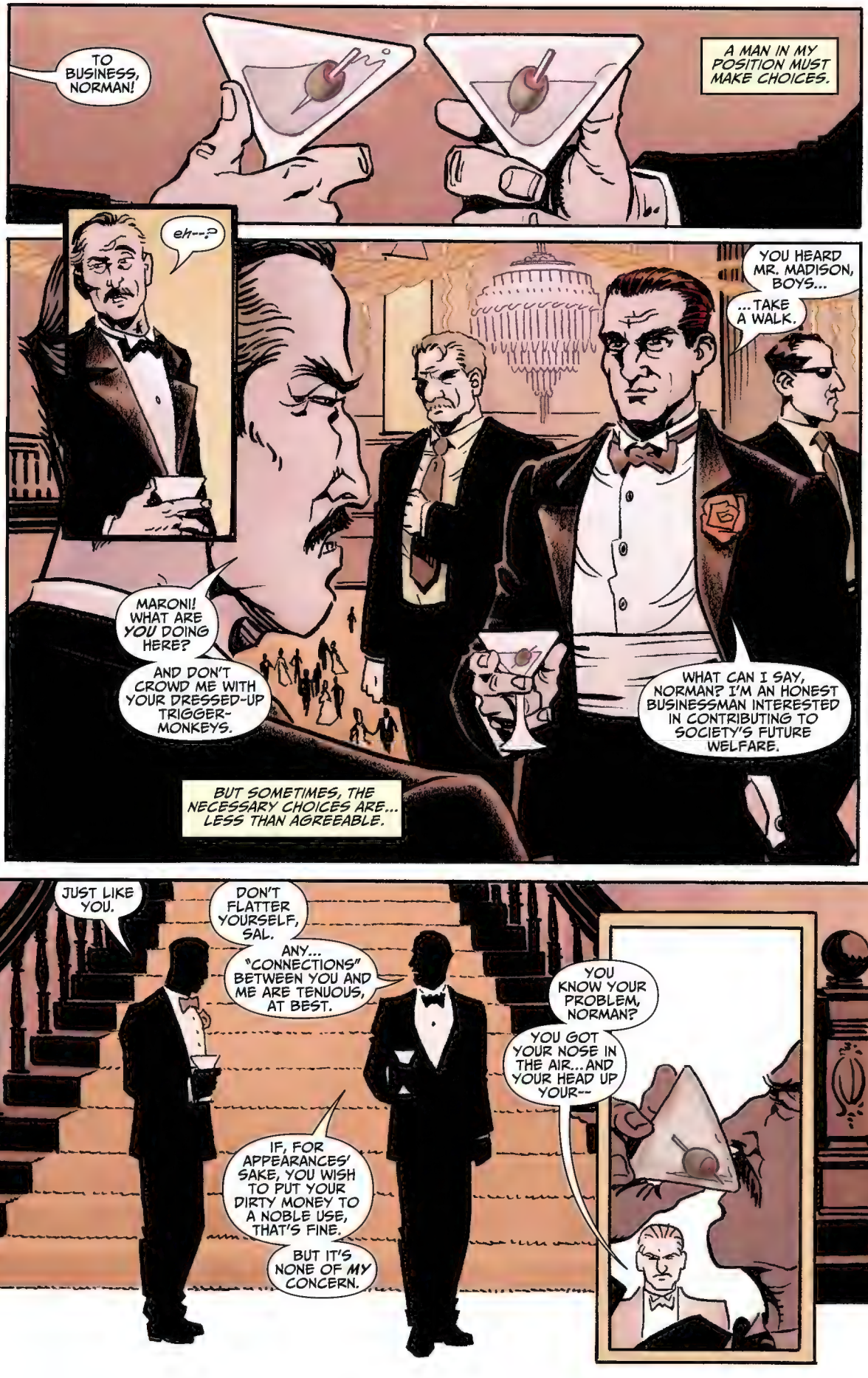

THE MANIFEST DIDN'T INCLUDE ANY CODED BARRELS. I SWEAR I DIDN'T SEE ANY...
N-N-NOOO...
OHHH...SO, Y'DIDN'T SEE ANY CODED BARRELS? EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW THEY WERE THERE?
GUESS IF YOUR EYES ARE THAT USELESS, THEY'RE NOT MUCH GOOD TO YOU, ANYWAY.
Sal Maroni wields an iron fist in service to his master, Carmine Falcone- "The Roman".
Sal's thugs, in turn, are as loyal as they are brutal. Eager in their violence.
HOLD STILL, Y'FREAKIN' WEASEL!
AGGGGH! NOOOOO! NOOOO!
AWWW... LOOKIT THAT. I MISSED!
I arrive, nearly too late.
SO, MY NEARSIGHTED FRIEND...DID THAT HELP TO SERIOUSLY JOG YOUR MEMORY?
OR DO I MOVE ON TO "PERTURBED"?
pant, pant eh...? pant, pant
NNNNN...

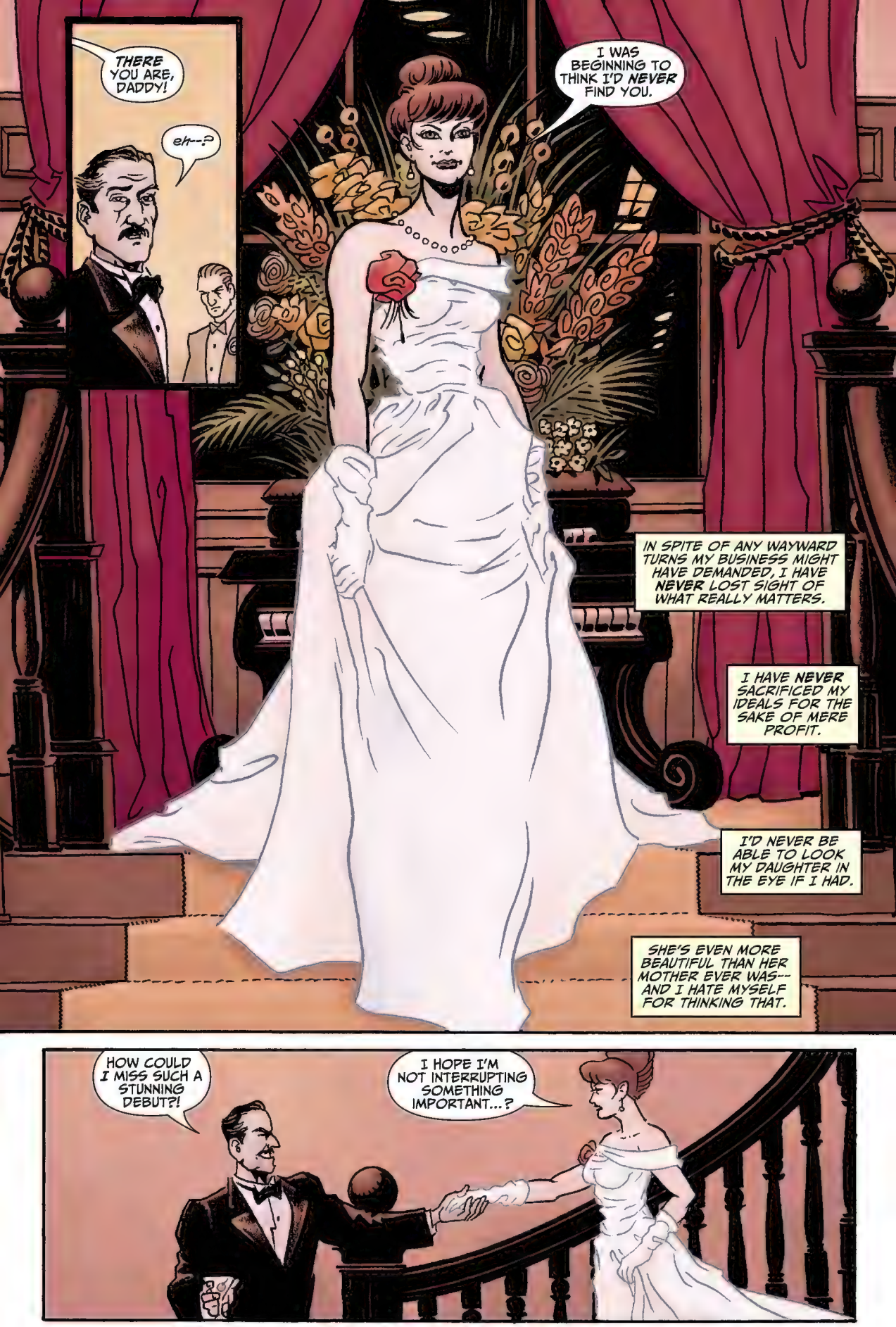
WHAT?
CHOK
BOOPH--!
GNHH--

Maroni's goons have gotten bolder in recent months.
KRAK
JAYZUS! IT'S...IT'S... HIM!!
THE BAT!!
AAAAAGH!!
AND I'M GONNA BE THE ONE TO CAP 'IM!
heh...I'M AS GOOD AS MADE!
Must be something big in the works.
YAAGH!
CLAK
pthh...
KRNCH

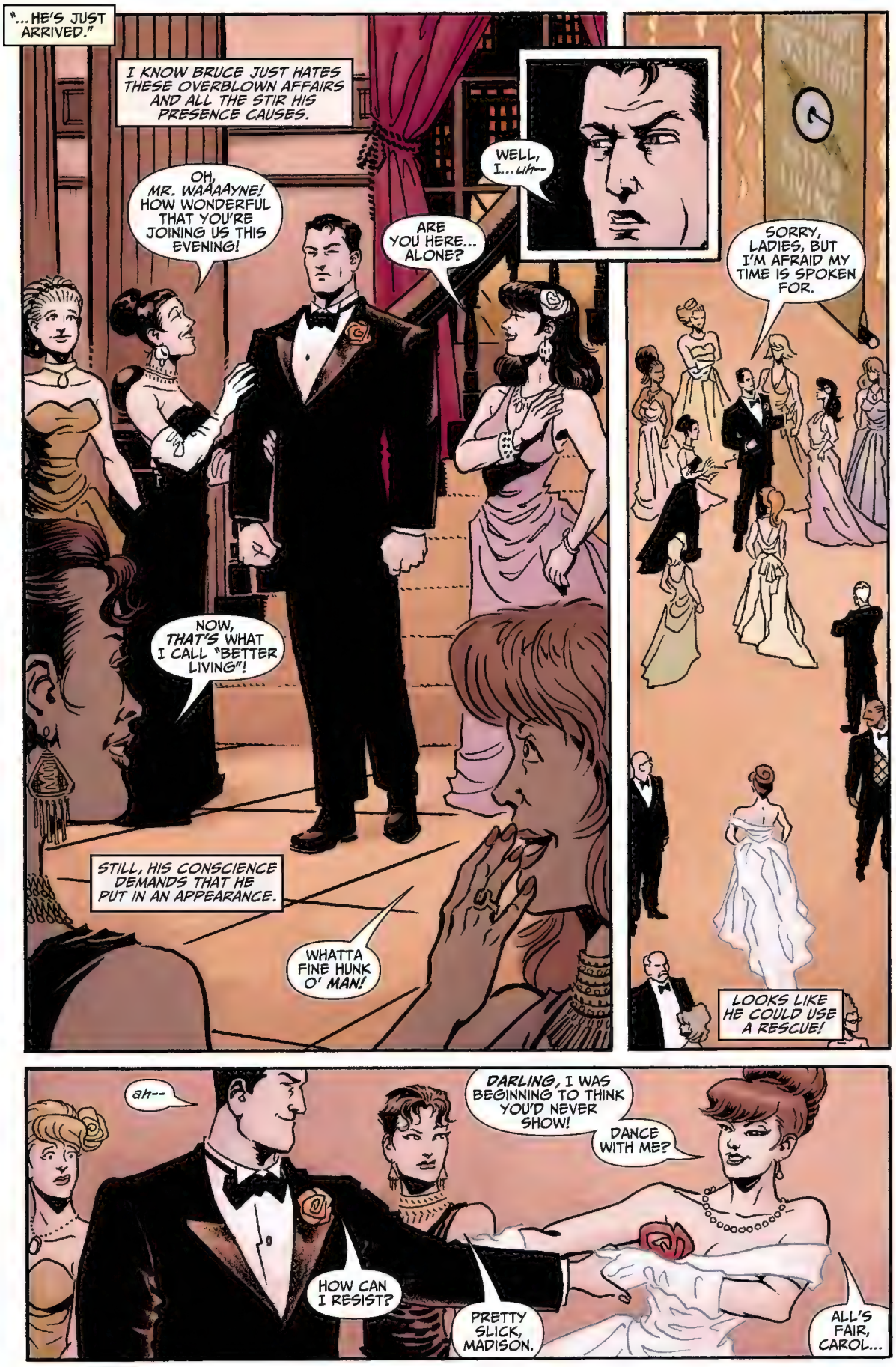
Animals like this understand one language only.
ngh... dmm...fuh... gh--
humh...? N-nuh...
The very FEAR they so casually inflict upon others.
WHA...? N-nuh... WAIT! I DON'T...
I DON'T... DON'T KNOW... WAIT!!
NOOOOO!
ARGGHH!
NOOOO!
I'LL TALK! PLEAS
I'LL TALK! NOOOO
I SWEAR...MOTHE
OF GOD! I SWEAR
PLEASE, GOD


The tough guy lasts all of four minutes before he talks.
NAGGH! NO! NO, LEAVE ME ALONE!
The costume works. At times, too well.
I--I ALREADY TOLD THEM! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING! I SWEAR! PLEASE...
YOU ARE ON THE VERGE OF SHOCK STEMMING FROM YOUR MISTREATMENT.
THE POLICE AND AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAM WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY.
REST ASSURED THOSE WHO DID THIS TO YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE PUNISHMENT.
Heroin.
Maroni's been importing heroin disguised as pickled fish.
The street value for such an amount is staggering.
A sum he will use to further crush this city under his heel.
Still, this is all I can do for now.
A lady awaits.

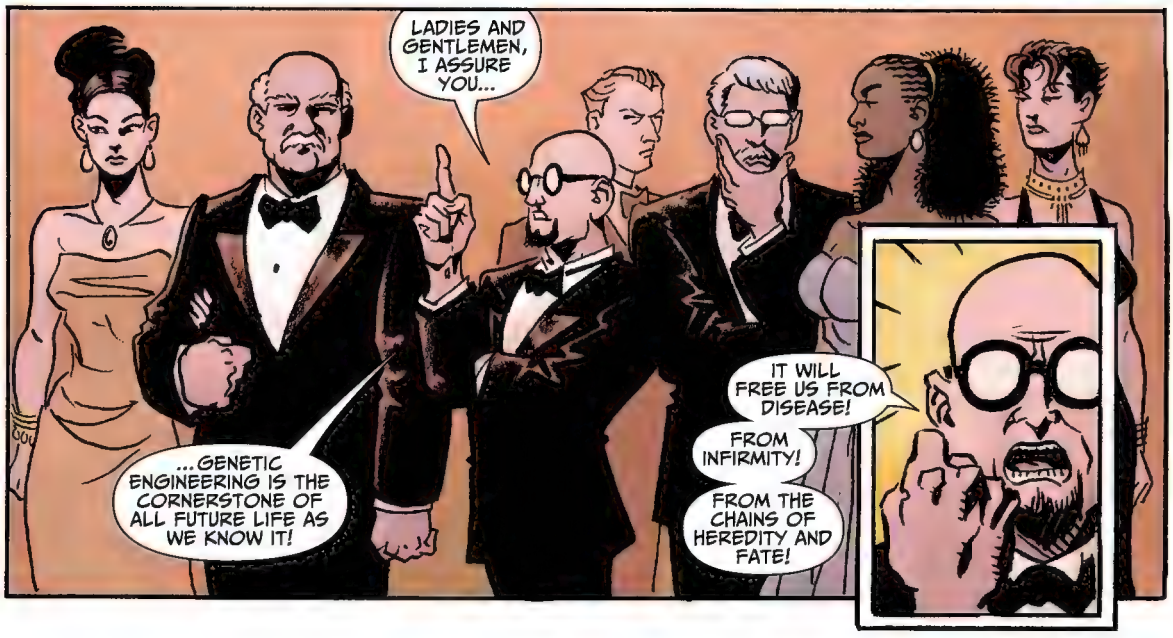

TO BUSINESS, NORMAN!
A MAN IN MY POSITION MUST MAKE CHOICES.
eh--?
YOU HEARD MR. MADISON, BOYS...
...TAKE A WALK.
MARONI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AND DON'T CROWD ME WITH YOUR DRESSED-UP TRIGGER-MONKEYS.
WHAT CAN I SAY, NORMAN? I'M AN HONEST BUSINESSMAN INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIETY'S FUTURE WELFARE.
BUT SOMETIMES, THE NECESSARY CHOICES ARE... LESS THAN AGREEABLE.
JUST LIKE YOU.
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF, SAL.
ANY... "CONNECTIONS" BETWEEN YOU AND ME ARE TENUOUS, AT BEST.
IF, FOR APPEARANCES' SAKE, YOU WISH TO PUT YOUR DIRTY MONEY TO A NOBLE USE, THAT'S FINE.
BUT IT'S NONE OF MY CONCERN.
YOU KNOW YOUR PROBLEM, NORMAN?
YOU GOT YOUR NOSE IN THE AIR... AND YOUR HEAD UP YOUR--


THERE YOU ARE, DADDY!
eh--?
I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK I'D NEVER FIND YOU.
IN SPITE OF ANY WAYWARD TURNS MY BUSINESS MIGHT HAVE DEMANDED, I HAVE NEVER LOST SIGHT OF WHAT REALLY MATTERS.
I HAVE NEVER SACRIFICED MY IDEALS FOR THE SAKE OF MERE PROFIT.
I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO LOOK MY DAUGHTER IN THE EYE IF I HAD.
SHE'S EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN HER MOTHER EVER WAS--AND I HATE MYSELF FOR THINKING THAT.
HOW COULD I MISS SUCH A STUNNING DEBUT?!
I HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING SOMETHING IMPORTANT...?

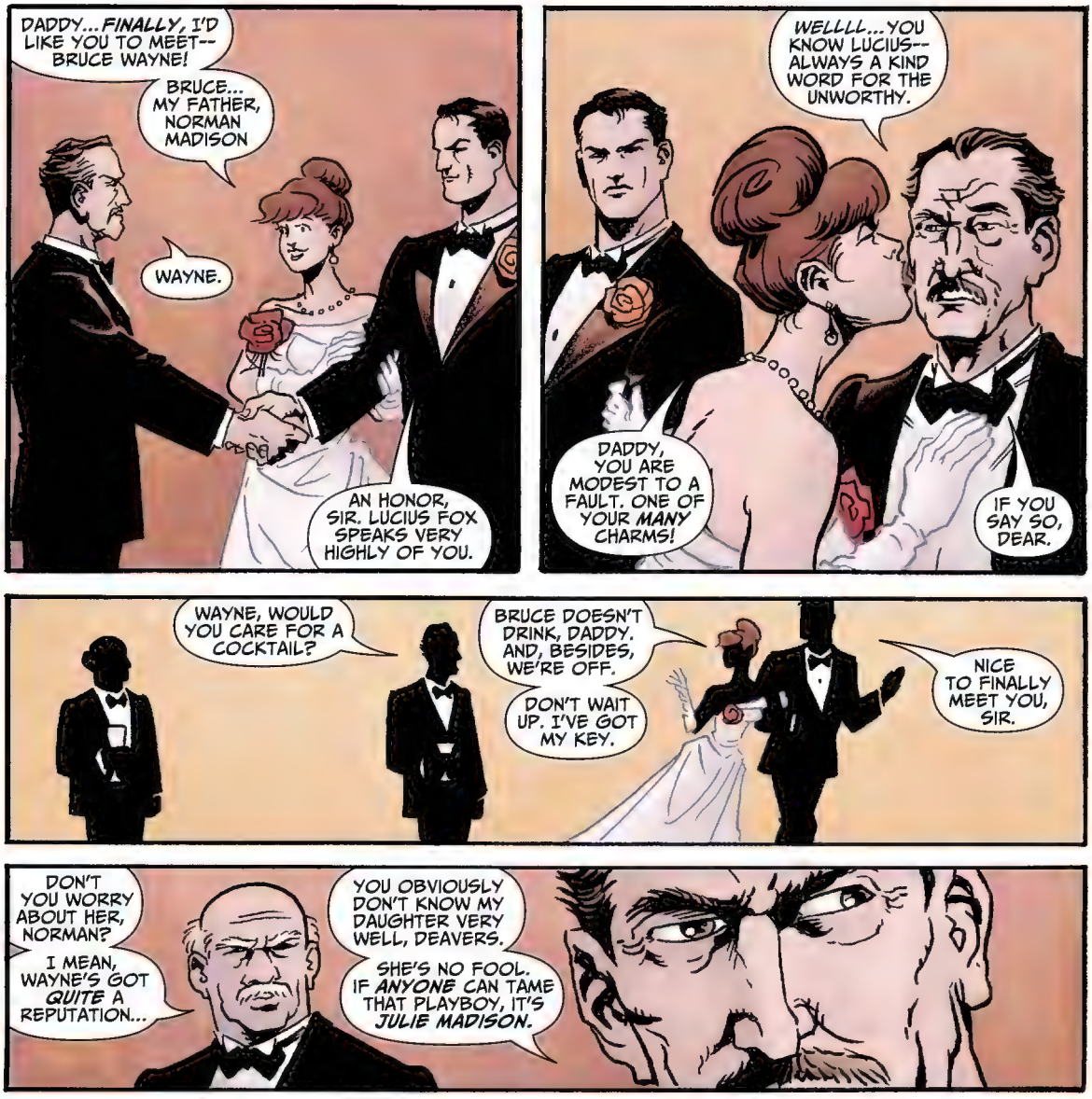
SAL, WE GOT TROUBLE...
RICHIE AND HIS BOYS RAN INTO THE "BAT-MAN" DOWN AT THE DOCKS. YOU'D BETTER COME TALK TO THEM.
AGAIN?!
AGGGH--THAT POINTY-EARED FREAK!
SORRY, NORMAN.
LOVE TO MEET YOUR DAUGHTER AND ALL, BUT BUSINESS CALLS.
THAT, I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND.
IS HE AN ASSOCIATE OF YOURS, DADDY?
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING... REGRETTABLY... YES.
NOT MUCH LIKE YOUR USUAL BUSINESS PARTNERS.
NOTHING ESCAPES HER SHARP-EYED NOTICE.
I'D HAVE MADE A LOUSY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, AS MY OWN FATHER HAD ONCE HOPED.
ENOUGH ABOUT ALL THAT...
...I'M JUST GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO JOIN ME FOR SUCH A WORTHY EVENT.
THE GOTHAM INSTITUTE IS A VERY DESERVING TRUST. THE WORK IT DOES IS INVALUABLE TO SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.
AWWW... YOU CAN'T FOOL ME, DADDY. I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A HIDDEN AGENDA THIS EVENING.
YOU'RE JUST DYING TO FINALLY MEET BRUCE.
WELL, I...
AND, FROM THE SOUNDS OF IT...

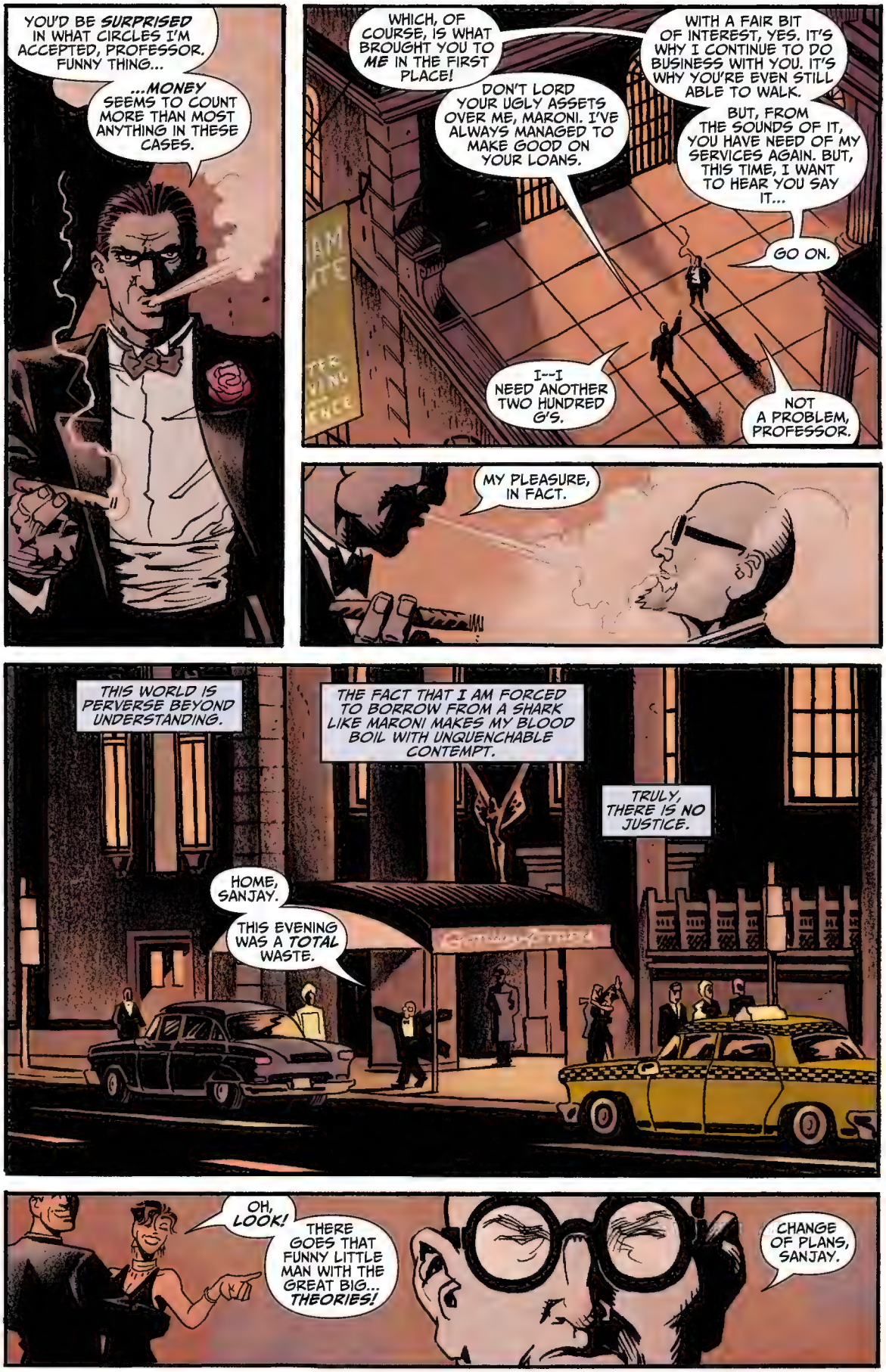

"...HE'S JUST ARRIVED."
I KNOW BRUCE JUST HATES THESE OVERBLOWN AFFAIRS AND ALL THE STIR HIS PRESENCE CAUSES.
OH, MR. WAAAAYNE! HOW WONDERFUL THAT YOU'RE JOINING US THIS EVENING!
ARE YOU HERE... ALONE?
WELL, I... uh--
SORRY, LADIES, BUT I'M AFRAID MY TIME IS SPOKEN FOR.
NOW, THAT'S WHAT I CALL "BETTER LIVING"!
STILL, HIS CONSCIENCE DEMANDS THAT HE PUT IN AN APPEARANCE.
WHATTA FINE HUNK O' MAN!
LOOKS LIKE HE COULD USE A RESCUE!
ah--
DARLING, I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D NEVER SHOW!
DANCE WITH ME?
HOW CAN I RESIST?
PRETTY SLICK, MADISON.
ALL'S FAIR, CAROL...

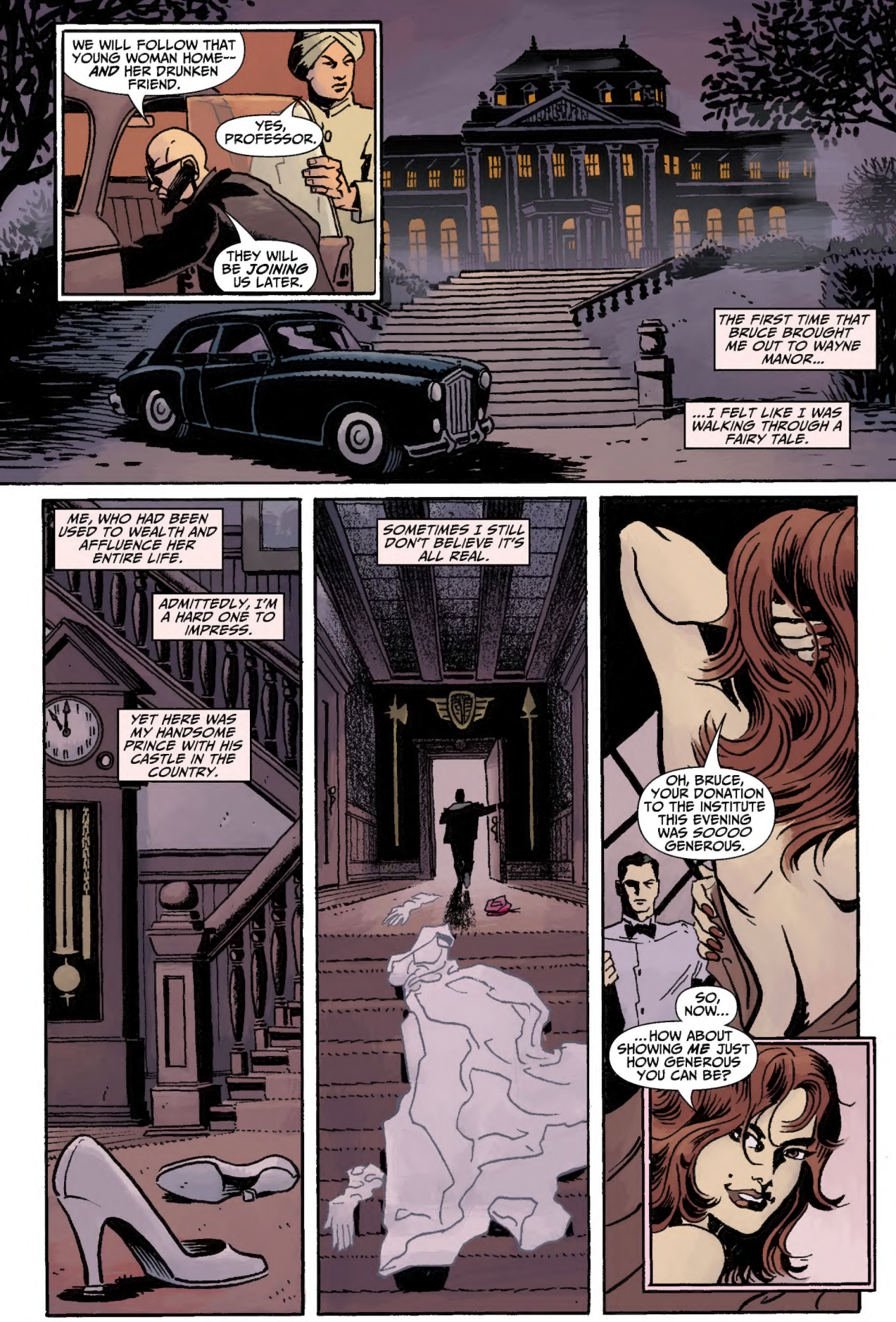
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU DON'T ATTEND MANY OF THESE SOIREES...
...I'D HAVE TO BEAT THEM OFF OF YOU WITH A STICK!
I'M PRETTY GOOD AT DEFENDING MYSELF...
...EXCEPT WHEN IT COMES TO SMART, STYLISH, GREY-EYED LAW STUDENTS.
OKAY... YOU JUST EARNED *YOUR* DEGREE.
BUT I'D *LOVE* TO HEAR THE REST OF YOUR DISSERTATION!
OF ALL THE BEAUTIFUL, AVAILABLE WOMEN AT HIS FINGERTIPS...
...HE CHOSE ME.
ME!


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I ASSURE YOU...
...GENETIC ENGINEERING IS THE CORNERSTONE OF ALL FUTURE LIFE AS WE KNOW IT!
IT WILL FREE US FROM DISEASE!
FROM INFIRMITY!
FROM THE CHAINS OF HEREDITY AND FATE!

THROUGH GENETICS, NONE NEED EVER SUFFER THE CRUEL STING OF SOCIETY'S REBUKE.
EQUALITY SHALL BE THE RULE!
EXCELLENCE, THE NORM!
NOW, WAIT- JUST-A-MINUTE... IS IT, DOCTOR--?
PROFESSOR STRANGE, MADAM.
HUGO STRANGE.
I'M SURE.
SO YOU'RE SAYING, PROFESSOR, THAT SOMEDAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO JUST STYLE OURSELVES TO FIT OUR EVERY WHIM?
WITHIN REASON, YES.
SO, IN THE FUTURE, NO ONE WOULD EVER BE...SHORT?
ANY HEIGHT THAT ONE WISHED, MADAM.
AND NO ONE WOULD BE, OH... BOWLEGGED?
I SHOULD THINK NOT.
NOR... NEAR-SIGHTED?
OPTICAL DEGENERATION IS GENETIC, MADAM.
NOR, LET'S SEE... BALD?
UM... NO.
THANK YOU, PROFESSOR.
SO GLAD TO HEAR OF YOUR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF "ALL MANKIND!"

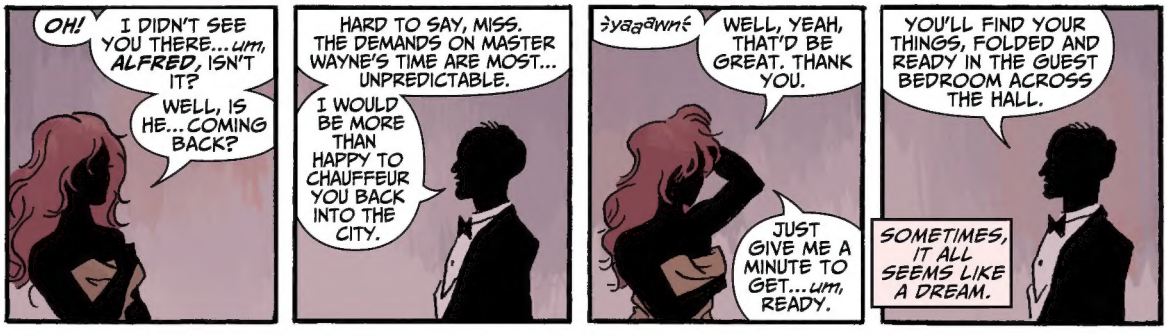

DADDY... FINALLY, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET-- BRUCE WAYNE!
BRUCE... MY FATHER, NORMAN MADISON
WAYNE.
AN HONOR, SIR. LUCIUS FOX SPEAKS VERY HIGHLY OF YOU.
WELLLL... YOU KNOW LUCIUS-- ALWAYS A KIND WORD FOR THE UNWORTHY.
DADDY, YOU ARE MODEST TO A FAULT. ONE OF YOUR MANY CHARMS!
IF YOU SAY SO, DEAR.
WAYNE, WOULD YOU CARE FOR A COCKTAIL?
BRUCE DOESN'T DRINK, DADDY. AND, BESIDES, WE'RE OFF.
DON'T WAIT UP. I'VE GOT MY KEY.
NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU, SIR.
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT HER, NORMAN?
I MEAN, WAYNE'S GOT QUITE A REPUTATION...
YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T KNOW MY DAUGHTER VERY WELL, DEAVERS.
SHE'S NO FOOL. IF ANYONE CAN TAME THAT PLAYBOY, IT'S JULIE MADISON.
THOSE FOOLS.
THOSE OVER-DRESSED, SLAB-HEADED FOOLS.
GOTHAM INSTITUTE
BETTER
WHY CAN'T THEY SEE THE POTENTIAL? WHY DON'T THEY SHARE THE DREAM?
SOOOO... LOOKS LIKE YOUR CANVASSING PITCH FELL A LITTLE... SHORT.
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY LET YOUR KIND INTO THESE EVENTS, MARONI.


YOU'D BE SURPRISED IN WHAT CIRCLES I'M ACCEPTED, PROFESSOR. FUNNY THING...
...MONEY SEEMS TO COUNT MORE THAN MOST ANYTHING IN THESE CASES.
WHICH, OF COURSE, IS WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO ME IN THE FIRST PLACE!
DON'T LORD YOUR UGLY ASSETS OVER ME, MARONI. I'VE ALWAYS MANAGED TO MAKE GOOD ON YOUR LOANS.
WITH A FAIR BIT OF INTEREST, YES. IT'S WHY I CONTINUE TO DO BUSINESS WITH YOU. IT'S WHY YOU'RE EVEN STILL ABLE TO WALK.
BUT, FROM THE SOUNDS OF IT, YOU HAVE NEED OF MY SERVICES AGAIN. BUT, THIS TIME, I WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY IT...
GO ON.
I--I NEED ANOTHER TWO HUNDRED G'S.
NOT A PROBLEM, PROFESSOR.
MY PLEASURE, IN FACT.
THIS WORLD IS PERVERSE BEYOND UNDERSTANDING.
THE FACT THAT I AM FORCED TO BORROW FROM A SHARK LIKE MARONI MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL WITH UNQUENCHABLE CONTEMPT.
TRULY, THERE IS NO JUSTICE.
HOME, SANJAY.
THIS EVENING WAS A TOTAL WASTE.
OH, LOOK!
THERE GOES THAT FUNNY LITTLE MAN WITH THE GREAT BIG... THEORIES!
CHANGE OF PLANS, SANJAY.


WE WILL FOLLOW THAT YOUNG WOMAN HOME-- AND HER DRUNKEN FRIEND.
YES, PROFESSOR.
THEY WILL BE JOINING US LATER.
THE FIRST TIME THAT BRUCE BROUGHT ME OUT TO WAYNE MANOR...
...I FELT LIKE I WAS WALKING THROUGH A FAIRY TALE.
ME, WHO HAD BEEN USED TO WEALTH AND AFFLUENCE HER ENTIRE LIFE.
ADMITTEDLY, I'M A HARD ONE TO IMPRESS.
YET HERE WAS MY HANDSOME PRINCE WITH HIS CASTLE IN THE COUNTRY.
SOMETIMES I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT'S ALL REAL.
OH, BRUCE, YOUR DONATION TO THE INSTITUTE THIS EVENING WAS SOOOO GENEROUS.
SO, NOW...
...HOW ABOUT SHOWING ME JUST HOW GENEROUS YOU CAN BE?

THE NIGHT WIND WHISTLES THROUGH THE COLD, STONE HALLWAYS.
THE CASTLE, NOW, IS LONELY AND DARK.
huh--?
B-BRUCE...?

BRUCE? WHERE'D YOU--?
I'M AFRAID MASTER WAYNE WAS CALLED AWAY ON BUSINESS, MISS.


OH!
I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE... um, ALFRED, ISN'T IT?
WELL, IS HE... COMING BACK?
HARD TO SAY, MISS. THE DEMANDS ON MASTER WAYNE'S TIME ARE MOST... UNPREDICTABLE.
I WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO CHAUFFEUR YOU BACK INTO THE CITY.
yaaawn
WELL, YEAH, THAT'D BE GREAT. THANK YOU.
JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE TO GET... um, READY.
YOU'LL FIND YOUR THINGS, FOLDED AND READY IN THE GUEST BEDROOM ACROSS THE HALL.
SOMETIMES, IT ALL SEEMS LIKE A DREAM.

I'm closing in.
The war may be ending soon.
Connecting THE ROMAN to that heroin could crack the back of organized crime in Gotham.
Mother, Father... soon the city you loved will again be clean.
I even have a girlfriend now. I think you'd both like her.
GENETIC ENHANCEMENT IS NOT ENOUGH.
umhh--
WH- WHAT THE HELL..?
T-T-TOMMY?!!
AEIIEEE!
NOW THAT IS SOME KINDA HANGOVER! DON'T... EVEN... REMEMBER--
umh?
BL- BLOOD...? WHU--

SOMETIMES, MORE DRASTIC MEASURES ARE NECESSARY.
HELP! SOMEBODY!!
PLEEEEASE!!
HELP MEEEE--!
hmph
NO SURPRISE. EVEN YOUR JEWELRY IS TAWDRY.
Y-Y-YOU!!
LET--LET ME OUT OF HERE!
PLEEEASE!
I WOULDN'T YOWL SO MUCH IF I WERE YOU. YOUR FRIEND WASN'T VERY LARGE.
AND THEY'RE STILL HUNGRY, I'M SURE.
WHAT DO Y--? OH, NO!
NOOOOOOO!!!
SOMETIMES, THE GENE POOL DEMANDS TO BE THINNED.
TO BE CONTINUED